

Rural welfare (1952) Department.

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SERIES.

G.O. NO.	111
Dated	1-2-52

[Signature]

closed.

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Supdt

$$\frac{401}{4/2}$$

[Despatch Abstract.]

H.R.E. Sri SodeMatti — iclipi — South Kanara
 District — Appraisement of Savel etc — descriptive
 report — Relanded.

Office of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board,
Madras.

Letter No. 123100/51-1-Gn1-d/26-9-1951.

From

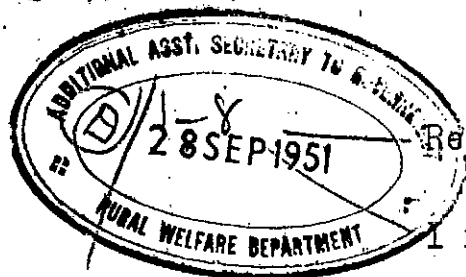
Sri T.M. Chinnaiya Pillai, M.A., B.L.,
President, Hindu Religious Endowments Board,
Cathedral P.O., Madras.

To

49560
C/V
Sir,
The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort Saint George, Madras.

Sub: Hindu Religious Endowments - Appraisalment and Verification of jewels and other valuables - Sri Sode Math - Udipi - South Kanara district - Descriptive report of the Verification Officer - Forwarded.

Ref: From the Verification Officer report d/21-9-1951.



I forward herewith a copy of the descriptive report of the Verification Officer relating to the math named above, together with a copy of the registers of valuables.

The Board agrees with the suggestions of the Verification Officer and necessary instructions have been issued to the interim trustee of the said math for adoption and necessary action.

I request that the Government may be pleased to approve the report so as to enable the math authorities to adopt the valuation in the registers maintained by the math.

Encls: 2 (descriptive report and register of valuables)

Yours faithfully,

L. Chinnaiya
President.

m.g. 27.9.51.

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R R 21/12

Memo NO-49560R.WII/51-12 15-X-57

10-R & C.E. - Appraisal and
Verification of Jewels and other
Valuables - in Sode Math, Udipi,
S. Kanara St. - Descriptive report.

p/c f

Ref:- From the PR. W.R. C. Bd. No. 123100/51-1 Gnd
dt. 26-9-57

⑤/8

The attention of the Commr, B. R. & C.E.
(Adm) Dept is invited to para IX of the
descriptive report of the Verifying officer
relating to ^{particulars} ~~the~~ the emerald
Mantapam in Sode Math, Udipi and he is
requested to offer his ^{specific remarks} ~~views~~ on the suggestion
made by the Verifying officer therein.

A'm ⑤/8
To the Commr, B. R. & C.E.
(Adm) Dept
Sd/- 20/11/57

PRV
12/10/57

13.10.57

14.10.57



Office of the Commissioner for Hindu
Religious and Charitable Endowments,
Madras.6.

Letter No. 123100/51-4 GNL Dated 22-11-1951.

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Sri T.M. Chinnaiya Pillai, M.A., B.L.,
Commissioner for Hindu Religious and
Charitable Endowments, Madras.

To
The Secretary to the Government
of Madras,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort St. George, Madras-9.

Sir,

Sub: Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments - Appraise-
ment and verification of jewels and other valuables -
Sri Sode Math - Udipi - South Kanara District - Des-
criptive Report - Emerald Mantapam - Interim Reportt
sent.

Ref: Government Memo. No. 49560 RW(V)/51-1 dated 15-10-1951.

On receipt of the descriptive report of the above Math from
the Verification Officer, the Interim Trustee of the Math has been asked
to submit his report on the suggestions made by the Verification Officer
in his descriptive report with special reference to the Emerald Mandapam
in Memorandum No. 123100/51-2 GNL dated 26-9-1951. No report has been
received from him. He has been reminded on the subject. On receipt of
a reply from the Interim Trustee of the Math, further report will be
submitted.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Commissioner.

Encl. sent 26/12, 18/1/52 N.R. 21/12/51

KG.22.11.

[Signature]
22/11/51

[Signature]
24/11/51
24-11-51

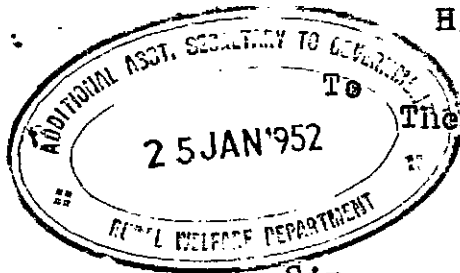
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Office of the Commissioner for Hindu
Religious and Charitable Endowments,
Madras-6.

Letter No.123100/51-6 Gnl dated 24-1-1952.

From

Sri T.M. Chinnaiya Pillai, M.A., B.L.,
Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Madras.6.



To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.9.

Sir,

3567
Sub: Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments- Appraise-
ment and Verification of jewels and other valuables-
Sri Sede Math- Udipi- South Kanara District- Descriptive
Report of the Verification Officer- Emerald
Mantapam- Report sent.

Ref: 1. Government Memo No.49560 R.W(V)/51-1 dated
15-10-1951 and

2. My letter No.123100/51-4 Gnl dated 22-11-1951.

p. 3 ante
p. 5 ante
In continuation of my letter cited, I am to state
that the Interim Trustee of the Math has reported that he
could not trace any record relating to the gift made by
the then Maharaja of Mysore. There are of course the
inscriptions in the Emerald Mantapam to the effect that
the same has been gifted by the Mysore Maharaja.

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2. The mantapam gifted by the Maharaja of Mysore
is in tact and whatever valuation has been entered in the
registers maintained by the math, it will not affect the
valuation of the Verification Officer made in his report,
which has been arrived at after due appraisement and veri-
fication of the said Emerald Mantapam. In the absence
of any record in the Math to throw some light on the subject,
the valuation made by the Verification Officer may be accepted.
If the Government consider that the Rajah Pramukha of Mysore
may be addressed on the subject to know whether there is any
record to show the material used for the Emerald Mantapam
etc., presented to the Math, some 150 or 200 years ago by
the then Maharaja of Mysore. I request that the Government
may address the Rajah Pramukha of Mysore on the subject.

Yours faithfully,

S. Chinnaiya Pillai

Commissioner.

H.R.24.1.

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24/1/52

Office of the Verification Officer,
Hindu Religious Endowments Board,
Camp: Srirangam.

From

Sri V. Rangaiah, B.A., B.L.,
Verification Officer,
Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort St. George,
M A D R A S.

Through

The President,
Hindu Religious Endowments Board,
Cathedral Post,
M A D R A S.

Sir,

Sub: Sode Math - Udipi - South Kanara district -
Descriptive report - submitted.

Sri Vadaraja (alias) Sode Math, Udipi.

I. This Mutt is one of the Ashta Matams, attached to Sri Krishna Devara Matalaya, Udipi, South Kanara District. The Matathipathy or the Swamiar is one of the Ashta pujaries of Sri Krishna Devara Matalaya and he is also one of the joint trustees of the temple of Sri Krishna Devara. This Matam is one of the important Matams of the Ashta Matams and gets an annual income of about 50,000. Sri Madhvacharya appointed 8 shishiyas to conduct the worship in the temple in turns. In course of time these 8 worshippers acquired wealth and endowments from devotees and established for themselves 8 Matams. These Matams are situated in the car street round the temple. The original disciple of Sri Madhvacharya, who belonged to this Mutt, was Sri Vishnu Theerthacharya, Sri Madhvacharya's own younger brother. This matam has had some famous saints in its

lineage. Sri Vadaraja swami is one of the important swamijies in the history of this Mutt. Sri Vadaraja swami established a temple at Sode for Sri Trivikrama at the instance of Arasappa Nayak a Polygar of the Vijayanagar Empire. This Matam is now called the Sode Matam after the important temple at Sode belonging to this Mutt.

Sri Madhvacharya ordained that the worship in the temple should be conducted by the 8 swamiars, who are to be Sanyasins celebrate from their boyhood. Thus for these 8 Mutts boys after Upanayanam are ordained as Sanyasins and become the Matathipathies. Each of these Matams has a presiding deity for the Mutt and the Matathipathies have their own pujas in the Matams and also perform tours to enlist disciples and collect funds for the temple and the Matams. Sri Bhuvараha is the presiding deity of the Sode Mutt. The present swamiar of the Sode Mutt is a minor and Sri Sreepathiacharya, B.Com., is the interim trustee.

II. Sri Vadaraja Swami who presided over this Mutt during the 16th century established the system of paryayams for the Matams and the system established by him is still continued. The Swamiyar of each Matam is to perform the pujas in the temple for 2 years and during the period of his pujas he also acts as the managing trustee of the temple. He collects all the incomes and bears all the expenses for the 2 years. Thus each Matathipathy gets his paryayam once in 16 years. During the paryayam the Matathipathy takes the presiding deity of the Mutt, into the temple and his personal puja and the pujas of the temple are merged together. The staff of the Mutt takes charge of the temple and becomes the temple staff. Thus during the period of the paryayam, Matam and the temple are treated as one unit. As after Sri Madhvacharya, Sri Vadaraja swami was one of the important saints in the history of the

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mutts and as Sri Vadaraja swami belonged to the Sode Mutt, the Sode Mutt is treated as one of the important Matams.

III. As mentioned by me above the Ashta Matathipathies have each a presiding deity in the Mutt and perform pujas, therefore the jewel wealth and paraphernalia are mostly, those belonging to the deities, in worship in the Matams, and also the paraphernalia used by the Swamijies for their tours. As also mentioned by me above in the lineage of the Matathipathies, since Sri Madhvacharya has ordained that the worshippers should be Sanyasins, there have been a number of great scholars and saints in the Matams. But in latter years as each of these Matams acquired considerable properties and as the paryayam system of pujas for the Swamiars turns came only once in 16 years, the Matams have ceased to throw up brilliant saints and scholars. As the Matams acquired large properties, the Matathipathies ceased to nominate independent learned young men as Matathipathies and became interested in perpetuating their own kith and kin as Matathipathies after them. It is found that the Matathipathies are the relations of the previous swamiars. Thus each Matam is practically a family affair. Generally the relations of the Swamiars are the secular Managers and staff of the Matams, and thus generally the families become supported by the Matams. The Matams are tending more and more to become family units and have ceased to throw up brilliant scholars and this has also contributed to the lowering of the prestige of the Matams in public estimation. It has also been noticed that the standard of religiosity enjoined by Sri Madhvacharya is not strictly observed by some of the Swamiars, ordained sayasins, from their boyhood and this also has lead to some extent to the loss of prestige of the mutts. Conserving mutt incomes purely for the religious purposes by the mutts will enable them to save funds for paryayams and to add to the jewel wealth and paraphernalia of the presiding deities in the mutts.

IV. The only account of the valuables of the Sode Mutt is the register under Section 38 prepared and approved by the Board. The Matam authorities have not produced any previous records of the valuables. They disclaim having any previous records of the valuables. Therefore the register under section 38 of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act has been used as the basis for the appraisement and verification of the valuables of this Mutt. The jewels are mainly the jewels used for the decoration of the deities. Many items of gold are used in the worship. Many of the silver articles also are part of the puja paraphernalia. In the list prepared the repairs necessary to the items and their present condition have been noted. The following are some of the items that require urgent repairs.

1. Item 4 of the list and item 8 of the temple register, Gold Kavacham of Vittala Devuru. To be repaired.
2. Item 5 of the list and item 8-A Kavacham Ramulu Varu To be repaired.
3. Item 11 of the list and 21 of the temple register Kamaladhalams. To be repaired.
4. Item 15 of the list and 17 of the temple register, Gold Nagas Kireetam. To be repaired.
5. Item No. 20 of the list and 51 of the temple register, Gold Dhanurbhan (Bow). Missing pearls to be supplied.
6. Item No. 27 of the list and 16 of the temple register, Gem-set gold face of Hayagiriva Devuru. Missing rubies are to be replaced.
7. Item No. 29 of the list and 25 of the temple register, Gem-set Kireetam of Vittala Devuru. Top gem to be supplied
8. Item No. 48 of the list and 45 of the temple register, Gem-set pendant Padhakkam in a gold chain of Dhanuvanthri Devuru. To be repaired or remade.
9. Item No. 50 of the list and 22-B of the temple register, Sri Ramlu Devuru Kireetam. To be repaired.
10. Item No. 54 of the list and 27 of the temple register, Gem-set Thurai. To be repaired.
11. Item No. 68 of the list and 30 of the temple register, one double bird gem-set padhakkam. To be remade.
12. Item No. 87 of the list and 33 of the temple register, Gold Padhakkam. To be repaired.

13. Item No. 95 of the list and 50-A of the temple register, Pearl Malai. To be repaired.

V. The following discrepancies have been noticed regarding the silver items. They will have to be explained by the Matam authorities.

Item No. 41 in the temple register, Sakkarai Sarmarpanai Thattai is shown as 43 tolas value, or 53-12-0 but now weighs 13-5-0 tolas.

Item No. 57 of the temple register, Amoorthies 4 weight 165 tolas and describes them as 5 tolas and value 206-4-0, but there are only 4 and weighs 43-11-0 tolas.

Item No. 81 of the temple register, Salakai Harathi mentioned them as 15 weighing 118-0-0 tolas but there are only 11 Salakai Harathi weighing 109-14-0 tolas.

Item No. 82 of the temple register, Mancha Harathi Thattu are mentioned as weighing 78-0-0 tolas valued at Rs. 97-8-0, but they now weighs only 65-7-0 tolas.

Item No. 104 of the temple register, Dhasavathara Samputam which now weighs 25-6-0. It has now no lid. The register weight is 46-0-0 tolas, so the lid is missing.

Item No. 108 of the temple register, Petam Matta. It has lost gold flowers.

VI. The following discrepancies in the register under Section 38 need rectification.

Item No. 22 of the temple register Silver kudam is described as 166-8-0. It is 184-12-0 tolas.

Item No. 45 of the temple register is described as Silver Thattu, but it is not silver.

Item No. 48 of the temple register, Gandhasamarpanai Thattus 2. There are 2 while the temple register mentions only one.

Item No. 77 of the temple register, Mangala Harathi Harivana. It ~~is~~ mentions as one while there are six.

Item No. 79 of the temple register, koorma harathi are mentioned as one while there are two.

VII. The following items are not entered in the 38 register. They may be entered.

Item No. 73 of the present list. One gold sword and a Dagger with blue cut glass and chains.

Item No. 74 of the present list, one weapon (Katti) with a cut green glass in the centre and with two gold parts in the ends with a silver covering.

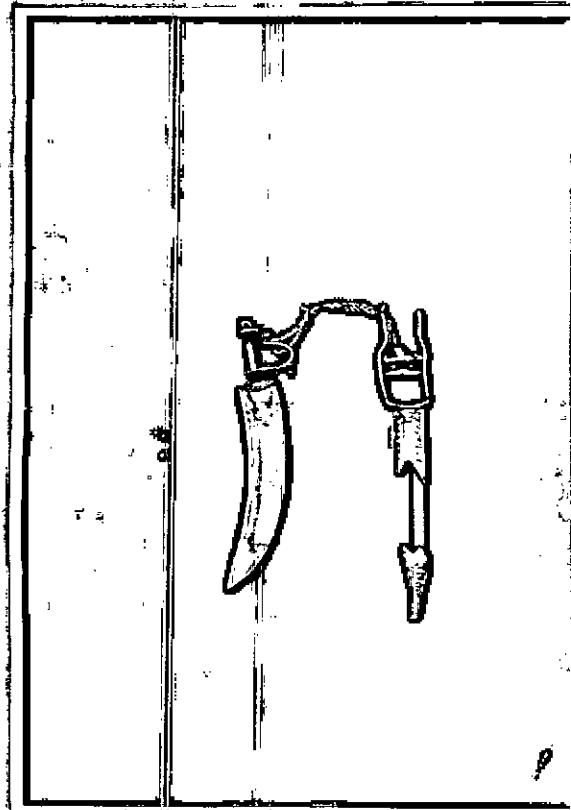
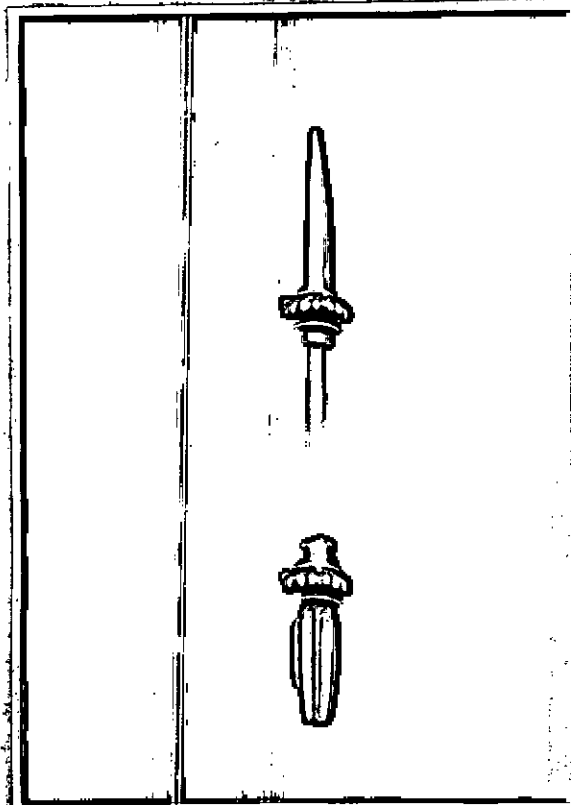
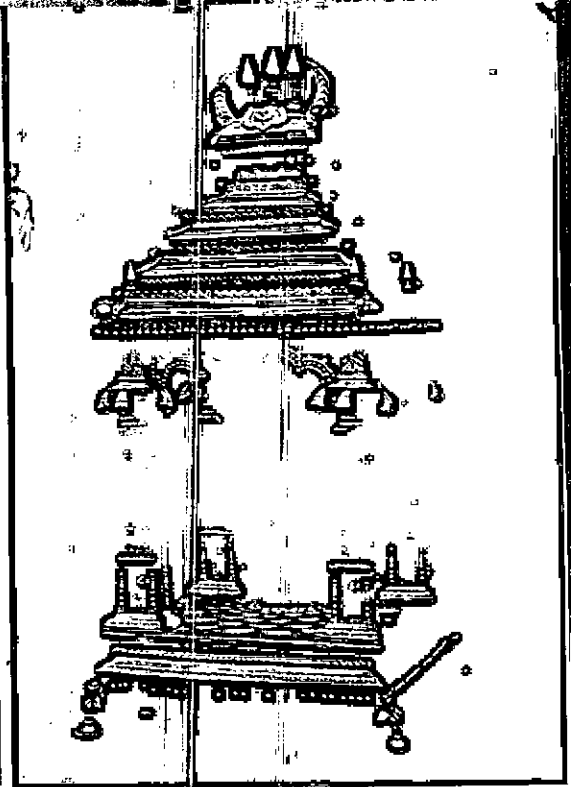
Item No. 75 of the present list, three rows Yegnopaveetham.

VIII. Sri Vadaraja Swami is credited with having performed many miracles. At Karkal about 20 miles the Buddhists had an emerald Buddha. Sri Vadaraja swami claimed that the vigraham was Vittala and not Buddha. He challenged the monks that the next day when the shrine was opened the vigraham would show marks of Vittala. It is stated that the next day the hands of the vigraham showed chanku and chakra. Therefore the monks gave the vigraham to Sri Vadaraja to be worshipped by him at the Mutt. This vigraham of Vittala Devuru in the Mutt is claimed as Emerald Vigraha brought by Vadarajaswami.

IX. In consonance with this there is a Mandapam for the emerald Vittala in this Mutt. It is called emerald Mantapam. There are also an Emerald Katti and one emerald sword for this deity. These items are highly esteemed by the Mutt and are show-pieces for visitors. They have been considered of very high value by the Mutt but the vigraham of Vittala Devuru is not emerald, but is of green Jade or Jasper of the same variety of stone of which several Lingams called Marakada Lingams exist in South Indian temples like Palni, Vedaranyam etc. The Mantapam also does not contain emeralds. The Pillars and the cornices where green material is used are made of green glass and not emerald. Similarly the green material in the Katti and sword is glass and not emerald. These items treated as of emerald by the Mutt and estimated very highly and which were being shown to visitors as of Emerald and of great value, are now declared by the Gem-specialist as not of emerald but as mere imitations. Thus the Emerald Vittala, emerald Mantapam and the Emerald Katti and sword have turned out to be imitations. As I have mentioned above the Vittala vigraham is of green material such as has been commonly used in other temples in about the 15th and 16th

centuries and which has been called Marakadham or Emerald in other temples also. But the material used in the emerald Mantapam and the Katti and sword is green glass and not even Jade or Jasper. I consider that this Mantapam and the sword and the Katti were presented to the Mutt to suit the emerald Vittala. The Emerald Mantapam bears an inscription that it was presented by one of the Maharajas of Mysore and may be taken to be about 150 or 200 years old. The Mantapam is made of silver and is gilded with gold and the pillars and cornices have got the imitation emeralds. I am attaching herewith a photograph of the Mantapam, the Katti and sword.

Although the Mantapam has been called the emerald Mantapam and has been shown by the Matam authorities as containing emerald pillars and cornices and valued very highly, the Mantapam never had real emerald pillars and cornices. I consider that it would have been very difficult to obtain emeralds of the size and shape for



the purpose and also the Mantapam would not have been made of silver if the pillars and cornices were of real emeralds. But in view of the reputation attached to this mantapam as an emerald Mantapam, if it is considered necessary, the authorities of Mysore may be addressed to elucidate the kind of gift given by them if any records exist. The Matam authorities may also be requested to search for old records of the Matam which may throw light on the gift.

X. This Matam takes its name after the sub-matam at Sode village. In the register under Section 38 some of the items of the sub-mutt have been entered. These items have not been appraised. The items are the following.

Items 69, 87 to 92 of gold and items 1 to 17, 20 of silver in the register under Section 38 of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act are at Sode village.

The village of Sode is in the Bombay Presidency. It is stated that the authorities of the Bombay Presidency have claimed jurisdiction over the sub-mutt at Sode and its properties.

XI. The appraisement and verification of the valuables of this mutt was taken up on 16-5-1951 and was completed on 20-5-1951. The cost of appraisement and verification is estimated at Rs. 350-0-0

The result of appraisement and verification is given hereunder.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Value of gem-set and gold articles.	54,423	9	0
Value of silver, plated and gilded articles.	14,296	7	0
Total...	68,720	0	0

V. Rangin
21-9-51
VERIFICATION OFFICER.

Encl: Valuables list.
MG. 16/9

Rural Welfare Department (V)

Abstract

H.R.E - Sri Sode Math - Udipi - South Kanara district - Appraisalment of jewels etc. - Descriptive report - Recorded.

Read also:-

From the President, (now Commissioner) H.R.E. Board (now Comm. H.R.&.C.E (Administration) Department, letter No. 123100/51-1 Gnl. dated 226-9-1951.

ORDER
MS

No. 111

FW(V)

Dated 1-2-1951.

Recorded.

2. The Register of valuables etc. intended for Government use is sent to the Curator, Madras Record Office, Egmore, for safe custody.

To
The Commissioner,
H.R.&.C.E. (Adm) Deptt.
Madras.

The Curator, M.R.O.
Egmore, Madras
(with encl.)

left below.

(D)

Obtain the
Comm. views
on the point

h
6-5-51

NOTE:- The descriptive report in respect of Sri Sode Math, Udipi,

South Kanara district on pp.1-8 of (D) may be perused and it may be presumed that the Comm. does not consider the suggestion at A on p. 8 of (D) worth recorded. The draft order above is for approval.

May be circulated to H.R.M.

A draft Memo is submitted for approval.

[Ground Memo no 1956/RWY/ST-1 d 15.10.51]

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[From the Commr - L v no. 123100/ST-4 Govt d 28.11.51]

[

L v no 123100/ST-6 Govt d 24.11.51]

Please see the report of the

Commissioner, H. R. & C. E. C. A. Dept on p. 7 of W. R. T.
The Dept's memo on p. 3 of. In view of the lapse of
nearly 150 to 200 years, no useful purpose will be
served by addressing the Court of Mysore now.
The suggestion of the Commissioner at A on p. 7 of
may be accepted.

The file may be circulated
to H. C. M. for perusal of the descriptive report
relating to the Sri Sode Math, Kodik at ① and
the register of valuables.

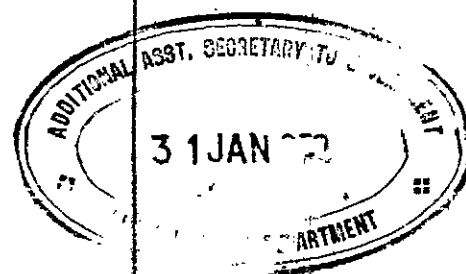
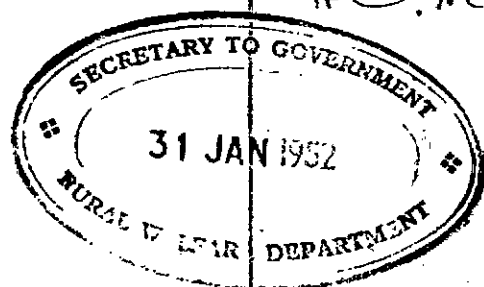
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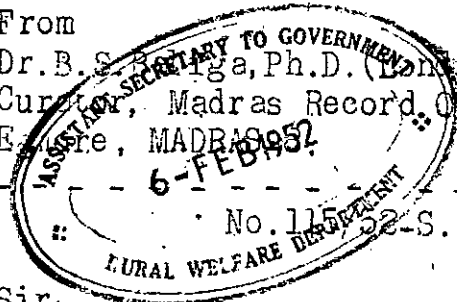
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H. C. M.



From
Dr. B. S. S. Iga, Ph.D. (L.D.S.),
Curator, Madras Record Office,
Esplanade, MADRAS 52.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort St. George, MADRAS.



No. 11552-S.A.9777 dated 4th February 1952.

Sir,

Sub:-Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Sri Sode Math -
Udipi - South Kanara District - Appraisalment of Jewels
etc. - Receipt - Acknowledged.

Ref:-G.O.Ns.No.111, Rural Welfare, dated 1-2-1952.

2013 (C) / p 214
G.K.

The register of valuables etc., of Sri Sode Math, Udipi, South
Kanara District, sent to this office for safe custody with the Govern-
ment Order cited has been received.

R.W.2

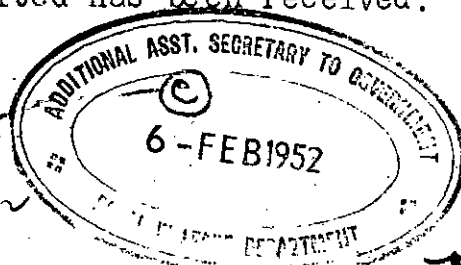
May be filed with the

G.O. No. 111 Rwd 1.252

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14-2-12



Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
CURATOR,
5-2-1952.